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COMPLETE WITHDRAWAL OF FOREIGN
MILITARY FORCES FROM THE
TERRITORIES OF THE BALTIC STATES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 18 May 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Estonia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the text of a statement dated 9 May 1994, by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Estonia concerning the withdrawal of Russian troops from Estonia.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the statement circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 26 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ernst JAAKSON
Permanent Representative

* A/49/50/Rev.1.

Annex

Statement by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Estonia
dated 9 May 1994

At a press conference that took place in Moscow on 6 May, the Russian Federation's Defence Minister, Pavel Grachev, stated that the Russian Federation will keep its forces in Estonia as long as it deems necessary and even reserves the right to bring in more troops if necessary.

This kind of statement by the Russian Defence Minister can be classified as a direct threat to Estonian independence and sovereignty.

Within the framework of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and the United Nations, the Russian Federation has made a commitment to withdraw its troops from Estonia, without any connection to any other issue. The 31 August 1994 date was offered by the Russian Federation itself. Likewise, the Russian Federation has no basis for tying the withdrawal of troops from Estonia to the withdrawal of troops from Latvia and Lithuania.

I hope that this statement by Defence Minister Pavel Grachev represents his personal opinion and not the Russian Federation's official position. In this connection, I have directed our Ministry of Foreign Affairs to request an explanation from the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the hopes that the Russian Federation's Foreign Ministry will refute Defence Minister Pavel Grachev's irresponsible and tension-producing statement.